



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

The Suppression of the African Slave Trade to the United States of America, 1638-1870. By W. E. BURGHARDT DU BOIS. Pp. xi, 335. Price, \$1.50. New York and London: Longmans, Green & Co., 1896.

The printing-press has become more and more prominent in the past generation as an ally of the university, and Harvard's historical department now falls in line with those of other educational institutions and begins the publication of a series of studies. This publication is made possible by the income from the Henry Warren Torrey Fund. The book before us is the first of the series, and in paper, typography, and style of binding is eminently satisfactory. Two other volumes in the same series were published in 1896, and, apparently, three volumes may be looked for each year in future. Mr. Du Bois has done a thoroughly good piece of work. His research has been exhaustive and accurate and he has incorporated the results of that research that the reader has a true book and not an ill-digested collection of facts. The author has learned that great lesson for the historian; the knowledge of what should be put in the text and what left to the foot-notes. It may be added that his references are exceedingly minute and, therefore, peculiarly serviceable.

We question whether Mr. Du Bois is not too severe in his condemnation of the founders of our national constitution for their compromise on the slave trade. While the South had not begun to defend slavery at that time, the North also had not been inspired with that fierce indignation against the "peculiar institution" which nerved her arm to such vigorous attacks against it in later years. The advantages of union were so great and the margin by which it was finally secured was so narrow, that we can easily understand how the Federalists made all things bend to the one object. There is no doubt, however, of the truth of the terrible indictment the author draws against the United States, which did not tax the slave trade, when it was in their power to do so, and which scarcely attempted to enforce the prohibitory act of 1807. Some circumstances may be urged by way of palliation, none by way of excuse. This indictment is not made with passionate invective, but through the careful statement of well-ascertained facts.

The author has done well in disentangling the mingled political, moral, and economic elements, which run through every phase of the slavery question. He has shown that the slave trade of Americans with Africa, was by no means confined to American ports, nor to those secluded inlets where the slavers smuggled in their captives; but that much profit was made by Americans carrying African slaves to the South American countries, and that several states discriminated in favor of this foreign trade, when they forbade the introduction of

slaves into their own territory. The various developments of the slave trade in the "planting," "farming," and "trading" colonies is well described. Attention is called to the influence which the Haytian revolt, under Toussaint l'Ouverture, had upon the passage of our federal prohibitory act. We wished no slave insurrection. The international attitude of the United States receives full discussion, including such topics as the proclamation of the slave trade as piracy, the question of the right of search, the quintuple treaty, and the joint squadron on the coast of Africa.

It is most interesting to see how the status of the slave trade varied. At first, everywhere legal, it was gradually abolished by law in every state. Then, as the economic value of slavery in the South became more clearly known, and as ideas of commercial profit gradually gained ground over those of morality, there came to be large numbers of men, who, by connivance in the traffic, favored the importation of slaves. Through this influence and the apathy of the general government in the matter, it came about that the prohibitory laws were wretchedly enforced, and that large numbers of African negroes were surreptitiously introduced into the United States. Just before the outbreak of the Civil War, there was a decided growth in the South of the sentiment favoring the reopening of the foreign slave trade, and Mr. Du Bois gives a clear account of the efforts made toward this end. The combat between the forces of slavery and freedom was indeed an "irrepressible" one; and, with the appearance of every such faithful study as this, we see more clearly that the nation could not continue half free and half slave.

Over one-third of the book is composed of appendices (pp. 201-325). Some of the matter contained in these appendices is a duplication of the foot-notes, and space might have been saved by reference thereto, but it is very convenient to have all the material in one place. Appendices *A.* and *B.* form a chronological conspectus of colonial, state, national and international legislation on the slave trade, which is of great value, though the propriety of including under this head, the protests of the Society of Friends is very doubtful. The third appendix is a most interesting chronological table of typical cases of vessels engaged in the American slave trade; while the fourth is a bibliography of the whole subject. This is quite an extensive list, and evinces much research. It is not clear why the laws of Alabama and Mississippi Territory are placed under the heading "Colonial Laws." The papers on slavery in the Johns Hopkins University Studies are not mentioned, which is especially an oversight, as it causes the omission of Brackett's useful work on the "Negro in Maryland." Other omissions are Barber's "History of the Amistad Captives," New

Haven, 1840; S. E. Baldwin's paper on the same subject in New Haven Colony Historical Society's Papers, Vol. IV, and Tremain's "Negro in the District of Columbia," in the Nebraska University Studies. On page 20, Mr. Du Bois states the return of sixteen slaves in Vermont in the census of 1790, is an error. This may be true, but that slaves were held in Vermont seems to be established by Jennings' "Memorials of a Century" (pp. 63-64).

BERNARD C. STEINER.

Johns Hopkins University.

The Speaker of the House of Representatives. By M. P. FOLLETT, Pp. xvi, 330-47. Price, \$1.75. New York: Longmans, Green & Co., 1896.

The political experience of the United States offers material for many valuable volumes on politics. But we lack political scientists who utilize this storehouse of facts. It is so easy to study the constitutionally constructed machinery; to show how the various parts are adjusted to one another and their loss of power through friction. But a large part of our political machinery is extra-constitutional. Unpatented, it is changed continually. The raw material which it weaves into legislation is varied and often difficult of discovery, for it lies embedded in the complex life of society. This makes it difficult to study the living and dominant political forces, and has led the political scientists of our country to avoid the rich fields of human experience and to deal with words and traditions rather than to face the facts of political life.

Personality is an element which must be reckoned with in attempting to explain the growth of institutions. The dignity and power of an office depend mainly upon the incumbent's character and his conception of the scope of his duties. This, of course, does not deny the existence of other important factors in the production of an office. Necessity is the mother of political offices as well as of invention. These observations were suggested by the method followed in the book under review. The author shows that while the Speaker is barely mentioned in the United States constitution, to-day his power is second only to the President's. While Miss Follett has laid considerable stress on the personal element in the development, she has not neglected to set forth the conditions which demanded an extension of the Speaker's authority.

The book begins with a brief historical sketch, under "Genesis of the Speaker's Power," and is continued under the following chapter headings, which indicate the scope of the work: "Choice of the